

THE HOUR BEFORE DAY,

Ballad

from the Favorite Entertainment of

RORY O' MORE.

Written & Composed

by

SAMUEL LOVER Esq<sup>R</sup>.

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# THE HOUR BEFORE DAY.

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An ancient poetical saying prevails among the Irish peasantry to encourage hope under adverse circumstances. "The hour that is darkest is the hour before day."

**Allegro**

**Con Spirito.**

Be-reft of his love and be-reav'd of his fame, A

Knight to the cell of the old Hermit came, "My foes they have slander'd and

**Con Espressa.**

**Ritlen:**

for'd me to fly, Oh tell me, good father, what's left but to die?" "Des-

Hour before day. G.

A tempo.

Espress.

—pair not my son, thoult be righted ere long, For Heav'n is above us to

*fp*

Rallent.

A tempo.

right all the wrong; Re-mem-ber the words the old Her-mit doth say, 'Tis

*Colla Voce.*

always the darkest the hour before day, O! the hour before day, 'The

hour before day, 'Tis always the darkest the hour before day.

Hour before day. 6.

Con Anima.

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"Then back to the tourney and back to the Court, And join thee the bravest in

Con Teneressa.

Con Spirito.

chivalry's sport; Thy foes will be there and thy Lady love too, And show both thou a knight that is

Con Express.

gallant and true? He rode, in the lists all his foes he o'er threw, And a

Rallent.

A Tempo.

bright glance he caught from a soft eye of blue; And he thought of the words the old

Colla voce

Con Express.

Hermit did say, For her glance was as bright as the dawning of day. Oh! the

6

hour before day, the hour before day, 'Tis always the darkest the

*Ad libitum*

hour before day.

The feast it was late in the cas\_tle that night And the

banquet was beaming with beauty and light; But fairest of all is the

la\_dy who glides To the porch where a knight with a fleet courser bides. She